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West Virginia NRCS News and Views

USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
May 2006

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After the 2005 hurricanes, NRCS personnel began helping local units of government by conducting damage surveys of the areas and assisting through the NRCS Emergency Watershed Protection (EWP) program.

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[From the Field](#)

Soils Field Week 2006, Potomac Headwaters RC&D, WVU Soils Team Ranks 1st.

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[Native Plant Restoration at Stones River National Battlefield](#)



Park managers identified restoration of native plant communities as a high priority for maintenance of the parks circa 1862 authenticity. The Alderson PMC has agreed to work with the National Park Service to collect seed, develop propagation techniques, and produce seedling plants and/or seed of the targeted species for plant community restoration within the park.

[...More Info](#)

[NRCS Provides Adequate Water Source](#)



Most Americans take drinking water for granted—turn on the faucet and water flows out. But residents in West Virginia's southern Randolph County don't have a reliable source of drinking water. They soon will because of a Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Public Law-566 project.

[...More Info](#)

[Riparian Buffer Establishment with CREP](#)



Hampshire County livestock producers continue to find the program benefits of the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) attractive.

[...More Info](#)

[2005 Minesoil Study](#)

The original surveys for Barbour (1968) and Preston (1959) Counties delineated strip mined lands, but simply designated these areas as 'Sm', with no corresponding interpretations. This was standard for the time as minesoils were thought to be too variable to accurately classify. Since then, the concept of mined areas has changed greatly.

[...More Info](#)

[Smooth Cordgrass Project](#)



The Plant Materials Center in Alderson is participating in a project to produce plugs of Smooth Cordgrass (*Spartina alterniflora*), for use at the Jamaica Bay Saltmarsh Restoration, along the coastline of New York State.

[...More Info](#)

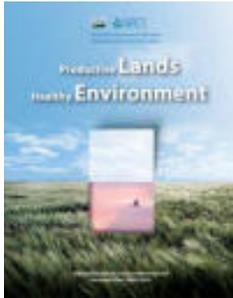
[Award-Winning Partners Project Benefits Livestock, Stream](#)



Robert Schnably, District Conservationist at the Ranson Service Center, is part of an award winning partnership team.

[...More Info](#)

[Productive Lands — Healthy Environment](#)



The new NRCS Strategic Plan, ***Productive Lands — Healthy Environment*** is available on the NRCS website. This Strategic Plan sets the direction for NRCS and describes our conservation priorities and goals.

[...More Info](#)

[Agriculture and Conservation Organizations Visited the Capitol](#)



The annual Agriculture and Conservation Day was held at the Capitol on Tuesday, February 14, 2006, in the Capitol Rotunda.

[...More Info](#)

[Conservation Education](#)



WV Grassland Evaluation Contest, Envirothon, West Virginia State Conservation Camp.

[...More Info](#)

[Useful Web Links](#)



E-mail Access Away from the Office, USDA Dashboard.

[...More Info](#)

[Earth Team Update](#)

Featured Volunteer, Earth Team GM Revised, Contact Information Change.

[...More Info](#)

[Home Protection Advice](#)

Jim believed in learning lessons from other people's experiences and hopes this might be helpful to others.

[...More Info](#)

[Meet](#)



Some of you may notice that TJ disappears from his civil engineering duties at the state office from time to time. This is because he has a part-time job with the US Air Force Reserves.

[...More Info](#)

[Civil Rights \[Mentors Needed\]\(#\)](#)

The program is designed to provide assistance and guidance to new employees, student trainees and current employees as they explore options and plan strategies towards their career growth at NRCS and is voluntary.

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To submit news items for the August *News and Views*, please send an e-mail message to [Carol Lagodich](#)

The Natural Resources Conservation Service provides leadership in a partnership effort to help people conserve, maintain and improve our natural resources and environment.

NRCS West Virginia State Office

75 High Street Room, 301, Morgantown, WV 26505

304-284-7540 | fax 304-284-4839

<http://www.wv.nrcs.usda.gov/>

Ronald L Hilliard, West Virginia State Conservationist

NRCS field offices are located throughout West Virginia

Visit <http://www.wv.nrcs.usda.gov/contact/> for addresses and phone numbers.

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Message from Ron Hilliard

It's been another busy quarter. Here is a summary of our spring projects.

Conservation Security Program (CSP)

Signup for CSP ended on March 31, 2006. WV had two watersheds authorized—Little Kanawha River and North Fork Shenandoah River. We are waiting for the national decision determining which applications will be funded.

Farm Bill

WV received our financial assistance allocation for the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP), Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP), and Agricultural Management Assistance (AMA) as shown in the table below.

Program	Allocation	March 3 Protracts Applications	Estimated Value
EQIP	\$5,519,765	903	\$12.8 million
WHIP	\$957,418	183	\$1.6 million
AMA*	\$146,234	22	\$276,263

* AMA can only be used in the Chesapeake Bay watershed

Farm and Ranchland Protection Program (FRPP)

WV has received \$1,869,726 in FRPP financial assistance.

Grassland Reserve Program (GRP)

GRP is at the funding cap so no new applications will be accepted. Applications accepted for funding in FY2005 are being finalized.

Wetland Reserve Program (WRP)

Three new WRP applications are being evaluated. Funds are available for these and additional ones, if received.

Water Resources

Elkwater Fork:

Construction is set to begin this month for the Upper Tygarts River Watershed Project in Randolph County. The West Virginia USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) will over see the construction of this \$31 million dollar project along with the local sponsors. For more information, go to http://www.wv.nrcs.usda.gov/news/06may_nv/elkwater.html. The project was featured in *NRCS This Week*.

Knapps Creek Project #6

Construction completed.

Upper Deckers Creek AMD

Design is progressing on several remediation sites. Construction begins on two sites this fall. NRCS is working with the WV Conservation Agency to obtain contractor to study Richard Mine Discharge.

Little Whitestick Channel Phase III

Design work is proceeding with anticipated construction starting in the fall of 2006.

Lost River Site 16

Work is progressing on the Supplemental Plan-EIS. The draft is being completed and will be out for public review this spring. After plan approval, design work can proceed with an anticipated construction start in the fall of 2007.

Dunloup Creek

Planning work is progressing. The draft report will be out for public review in the spring of 2006.

Rehabilitation Program

The program is getting off the ground and work is progressing on nine Rehabilitation

Assessments (3 of these are complete). It was presented to Monongahela and Potomac Valley Conservation District Boards.

North Fork Hughes River

The State Park is obtaining a sewage discharge permit. Beginning construction is anticipated in two recreation areas this fall.

Soils

The soil survey staff continues to develop digital soil surveys. Recently, Logan and Mingo Counties were added to the [Web Soil Survey](#) with several more counties coming along this year to include Brooke, Ohio, Hancock, Wood, Wirt, and Jefferson.

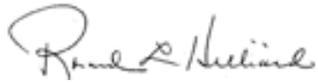
Plant Materials Center (PMC)

The Plant Material Center is [growing 170,000 marsh cordgrass plants](#) for restoration of a saltwater marsh on Long Island, NY. Eight NRCS employees provided assistance to the PMC planting the cordgrass. The PMC has reimbursable agreements with four other federal agencies for native plants. The PMC is also involved in:

- production of Canaan balsam fir, speckled alder and red spruce for restoration of threatened/endangered species;
 - seed increases for wildlife use in Kentucky;
 - evaluating the adoptability of field collected clovers for use in WV pastures;
 - evaluating use of giant cane (our largest native grass) for streambank erosion and use by Cherokee;
 - and establishing field planting of 'Quickstand' Bermudagrass for a summer forage.
-

The WV NRCS 2005 Annual Report is available on line at <http://www.wv.nrcs.usda.gov/news/O5report/O5report.html>.

Thanks for all your hard work.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Ron Helms".

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WV NRCS Assists with Katrina/Rita EWP

After the 2005 hurricanes, NRCS personnel began helping local units of government by conducting damage surveys of the areas and assisting through the NRCS Emergency Watershed Protection (EWP) program. EWP was set up by Congress to respond to emergencies created by natural disasters. Normal watershed outflows were impaired from trees, sediment, and other debris in drainage channels and floodplains. This debris has, or may, block channel and threaten roads, bridges, culverts, homes, businesses. Even small rainfall events may be dangerous because of the lack of the normal storm water drainage capacity.

Seven West Virginia NRCS employees went to Louisiana on 30-day EWP details.

- Larry Casseday, District Conservationist–Elkins Service Center
- Patti Mitchell, Civil Engineer–Cross Lanes Service Center
- Mike Mullenex, District Conservationist–Philippi Service Center
- Matt Pyle, Civil Engineer–Petersburg Service Center
- Vicki Scott, Administrative Office Assistant–Philippi-East Area Office
- David Sweeney, Civil Engineer–Parkersburg, West Area Office
- John Weller, Resource Conservation Engineer–Philippi, East Area Office

Work Assignments

Matt Pyle described his assignment to the NRCS Emergency Operating Centers in Oberlin. He was part of a Damage Survey Report (DSR) team consisting of an environmental specialist/team leader, a social/economic evaluation specialist, and Matt

as the team engineer. The DSR team's worked with the Beauregard Parish Police Jury (equivalent to a county commission) investigating sections of streams for EWP work.

As team engineer, Matt delineated channel blockages, recorded the severity of the impairment, and determined property/life threats. He identified site challenges or obstacles (i.e. utilities, houses) and produced cost estimates.

The teams compiled their work, created site and topographical maps, and produced a standardized Damage Survey Report. Environmental assessments (EA's) were an integral part of the reports. Matt's team wrote up DSR's on 58 sites.



"The size of trees down in stream channels in the community were typically the size of the ones in the photo or larger. Beauregard Parish is over 100 miles inland of Rita's landfall site and still had winds significant enough to push many trees this size over, complicating flooding problems for communities lying low next to normal floodplain areas," said Matt.

Other WV employees worked out of the Madisonville NRCS Emergency Operating Center. "Each team consisted of a Soil Con/DC, a biologist, and an engineer," said Patti Mitchell. "I was teamed with Dave Sweeney, who served as our soil con/DC, and Larry Casseday who served as our biologist. I was the team engineer. We received training from local NRCS personnel and the next day they turned us loose."

"Sometimes we were shown the sites by county, drainage district, or other NRCS employees. Otherwise, we were given a map to find the sites on our own," said John Weller.



Team views a cleared ditch.

Patti's team spent the first week working in Washington Parish, located in the north east corner of Louisiana. The sites were bridge crossings that had been impacted by storm debris. Then the team went to St. Tammany Parish. "We spent a lot of time in the Slidell area, which was one the hardest hit places in the state. It was amazing to see the devastation and how random it was. One house would be completely wrecked while its neighbor would have very little damage." said Patti.

Housing

Quarters for the Oberlin, EOC were dorm-like. The rooms were small cubicles built into

a larger building with two showers and two toilets serving from 6 to 12 people. There was a common kitchen with a television room at the center.

Quarters for Madisonville EOC was two private leased residences, one for the women and one for the men. The Women's House was located in a gated community called Beau Chene. There were three bedrooms, two and a half baths, a full kitchen and a laundry room, complete with a washer and dryer. It was very nice. The number of women staying there fluctuated between four and six," said Patti.

Hospitality

The rewarding social aspect of the details was expressed by all.



Louisiana co-workers invite Matt on a fishing trip on Toledo Bend Lake. The detailers had Sundays off.

Matt Pyle said "the local employees also were very good people and tried their best to expose us to their culture and make us feel welcome while we were there. Even local residents were in general pleasant to work with when they found out my DSR team was from NRCS and not from one of several less popular federal agencies working in the area. I feel fortunate to have had this opportunity to serve the agency and to have worked with the other EOC staff members in the fine state of Louisiana". Matt also commented on the learning experience--he benefited by gaining GPS and ARCMAP/ARCVIEW GIS experience.

Mike Mullenex said "the detail to LA to complete Damage Survey Reports was an unique experience and a chance to talk and work with other fellow NRCS employees from different states. It also gave us a chance to see the damage in New Orleans and the surrounding areas. We were treated exceptionally well by the LA NRCS employees and I appreciate the hospitality they showed toward us. We worked long hours and looked at many streams and channels that were clogged with debris and will cause future flooding if they aren't cleaned. Hopefully the work we performed there will take some of the burden off of the employees and free them to do other work that is pressing".



David Sweeney, Patti Mitchell, Larry Casseday, and Mike Mullennex with other EWP workers.

"We got a lot of work done in the area just north of New Orleans, but we were still able to have some fun with our extended NRCS family. The hospitality shown to us by the LA employees was just great. They went out of their way to help us feel at home and to meet our needs," said Larry Casseday. "I did not here a cross word out of any NRCS employee, which is saying something for a group spending all of their time together for a month. It is amazing how similar NRCS people are across the country. We worked with people from: Oklahoma, Wisconsin, West Virginia, and Louisiana and had a great detail".

"I have never felt at home as I did while working there. The NRCS employees in Oberlin are truly a rare breed. Those of us who were "imported" knew what we were getting ourselves into but the LA employees are there out of a sense of duty not knowing how long they will be there or what sort of circumstances they will face," said Vickie Scott. "Although I was anxious to get home, I was also saddened to be leaving. It was like going to summer camp where you make all these new friends and then at the end of the summer you have to leave them behind not knowing when or if you will ever have any contact with them again. Seldom does someone in an administrative position get the chance to serve on details of any kind, much less ones that carry such importance as EWP recovery."

"I got to see an area of the country never visited before, do some things that were new to me, and meet some great people. I appreciated the opportunity to go, and hope we provided some help that will make a difference to the people of that area," said John Weller.

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From the Field

Soils Field Week 2006

WV Soil Survey Staff Work to Confirm Forest Soil Fertility Differences

For the tenth year, field soil scientists in WV met to tackle a big job. This year, they sampled forest soils on unstudied areas in MLRA-127. During the week they were able to sample six benchmark soils in Fayette, Nicholas, Raleigh, and Webster Counties in MLRA-127. MLRA-127, which encompass several million acres in West Virginia includes some of the best hardwood forest in the world. They also held their quarterly staff meeting, offered evening seminars as training topics, and collected two soil monoliths.

The forest products industry is vital to West Virginia's and the Appalachian Region's economy. Since 1995, NRCS soil scientists in West Virginia have been sampling some of the most extensive forest soil types as they occur by parent materials. The samples are then evaluated using total elemental analysis which allowed the staff to examine relationships of soil nutrient content to the forest type and growth rates. WV soil scientists have found that there are marked fertility differences among forest soils as they are mapped and that they coincide with differences in dominant forest types growing on those soils.

According to Steve Carpenter, state soil scientist, "this is not a big surprise because we know that differences in forest site quality exist and these differences are related to soils but we lacked the data to incorporate facts into the soil survey report. We hope now that forest managers will pay more attention to our information. We needed more data to add to the reliability of our data and we got it this week. We know that the development of this data will be a significant improvement to the soil information available to managers in the forest products industry."



Soil Survey Staff prepare a sample of the Laidig series, an important forest soil in the region for laboratory analysis



Jared Beard and Charles Delp with a monolith, a visual sample of the soil assessed during the week

For more information contact [Steve Carpenter](#) at [Major Land Resource Area # 13](#)

Potomac Headwaters RC&D

Potomac Headwaters RC&D recently provided financial assistance to improve the parking for Mount Pisgah Methodist Church, a historic Afro-American church established in the late 1880's. Parking and unloading passengers along the highway was a safety hazard and it was difficult for some to get up and down the road bank. The new parking area was graded and graveled.

For more information, contact [Roger Boyer](#) at the [Potomac Headwaters RC&D Office](#).

WVU Soils Team Ranks 1st

Adam Boner, a former summer student employee for MLRA 13, was part of a WVU Soils Team that took first place in the National Collegiate Soil Judging Contest. For more details go to http://www.nis.wvu.edu/2006/soils_team.htm

For more information, contact [Wendy Noll](#) at [Major Land Resource Area # 13](#).

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Native Plant Restoration at Stones River National Battlefield

Submitted by John Vandevender, USDA-NRCS

Stones River National Battlefield is located in South-Central Tennessee on the outskirts of the City of Murfreesboro. Historically, this park is the location of the first major battle in the Union's effort to divide the Confederacy by mounting an eastward moving campaign through the South to the Atlantic Ocean. Vegetation and terrain played an important role in the outcome of this battle. Many battlefield accounts of the difficult terrain exist, especially of the cedar thickets, glades, brakes; and rock ledges and outcroppings that presented major obstacles to the movement of troops and equipment.

In addition to historical importance, Stones River National Battlefield is ecologically significant. Stones River is one of the top twenty-six calcareous glades in Tennessee and one of the top 40 glades in the Southeast. Calcareous glades of the Southeastern United States contribute to the biodiversity of the region through unique habitat and the species that colonize that habitat. In Tennessee, the Division of Natural Heritage found that 10 percent of the Tennessee listed rare plants are found in limestone glades. A glade is identified as an open area of relatively shallow, often rocky soil surrounded by cedar woods. Some examples of rare taxa that inhabit Stones River glades are:



Echinacea tennesseensis (Tennessee coneflower)



Talinum calcaricum (limestone fameflower)

Introduced and exotic plant species have encroached onto many areas of the battlefield. Park managers identified restoration of native plant communities as a high priority for maintenance of the parks circa 1862 authenticity. The Alderson PMC has agreed to work with the National Park Service to collect seed, develop propagation techniques, and produce seedling plants and/or seed of the targeted species for plant community restoration within the park.

In 1995, the Natural Resources Staff at Stones River conducted a vascular plant inventory of the calcareous glades of the battlefield. This inventory established a vegetative baseline for monitoring vegetative changes within the Stones River glades. The data also provided information about the direction of change for major glade indicators with the increase in woody, that is, cedar cover. Population trends for major glade indicator species have declined with increasing cedar cover.



Above: This vintage photograph is fairly representative of cedar glades in the area circa 1862.

Right: Today, Overgrown cedar glades at Stones River occur primarily through cessation of farming the land.



Using these findings, the Natural Resources Staff at Stones River developed and is

implementing an invasive species control plan. Exotic invasives are being controlled primarily through use of labor to cut or dig the offending plants. Native invasives, such as the red cedar, will likely be controlled through cutting and/or controlled burning. However, the degree of complexity associated with the glade indicator species population trend is greater than the complexity of the invasive species control issue.

The Stones River National Battlefield opted to enter into an agreement with the USDA-NRCS Plant Materials Center in Alderson, WV to produce seed and/or seedlings of some 20 species of glade indicator plants in order to preserve and/or improve cedar glade floristic authenticity. Plants are produced by the Plant Materials Center from Stones River ecotype seeds and used to establish seed production fields within the park. Seed harvested from these fields will be used to enhance floristic authenticity within the Park's calcareous glades. A photographic and descriptive interpretation of this process follows.



The process begins with collection of native plant seed within the park confines from plants such as this *Andropogon ternarius* (splitbeard bluestem). Once harvested, seed is transported to the plant materials center where it is conditioned and stored in a temperature and humidity controlled environment until planting.



Seed conditioning typically utilizes specialized equipment, such as this large seed cleaner, which employs screens, vibration and air pressure to separate vegetative debris from seed. Conditioning is performed to improve seed handling and/or germination characteristics.



Upon removal from climate controlled storage, seed is planted in individual cells such as these. After planting, the flats or trays may be placed cold storage for stratification if needed, or directly into a greenhouse environment if stratification is not required.



Once placed in the greenhouse, seed is subjected to controlled temperature, lighting and moisture regimes to ensure optimal germination.



Plants remain in greenhouse conditions until an extensive root system has developed. Plants are then returned to Stones River, where they are used to establish permanent seed production fields.



This is a view of 2004 plant plug production in a staging area at Stones River just prior to transplanting.



Transplanting is accomplished by using a mechanized transplanter that is propelled with a small farm tractor. Hand labor is used to remove the seedling plugs from the greenhouse trays and load them into the transplanter. Field preparation prior to transplanting typically involves use of a contact herbicide to remove existing vegetation and tillage; e.g. plowing and disking, to prepare the soil to ensure optimum transplant root to soil contact.



This is a typical view of a seed production field shortly after transplanting



And, this view represents well established seed production fields that should serve the native plant restoration needs of Stones River Natural Resources staff well into the future. Fields such as these should remain productive indefinitely with proper management and care.

Other species that are being increased for Stones River include: *Solidago nemoralis* (gray goldenrod), *Lespedeza violacea* (violet lespedeza), *Forestiera ligustrina* (upland swamp privet), *Symphotrichum drummondii* (Drummond's aster), and *Eragrostis spectabilis* (purple lovegrass).

In 2004, the Alderson Plant Materials Center produced approximately 20,000 seedling plugs of 12 Stones River ecotype native plants. The Stones River Native Plant Restoration Project is scheduled to continue for at least three more years.

This project:

- Promotes sustainability of local ecotypes
- Ensures circa 1862 floristic authenticity within the park
- Minimizes genetic shift
- Improves knowledge of propagation techniques for several native species

For more information, contact [John Vandevender](#) at the [Alderson Plant Materials Center](#).

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NRCS Provides Adequate Water Source in Randolph County, West Virginia



Most Americans take drinking water for granted—turn on the faucet and water flows out. But residents in West Virginia’s southern Randolph County don’t have a reliable source of drinking water. They soon will because of a Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Public Law-566 project. The Elkwater Fork Dam, in the Upper Tygarts Valley River Watershed, is a project to supply safe drinking water to 21,500 residents.

“This is a unique project to NRCS in West Virginia utilizing roller-compacted concrete to provide the 54-acre water supply impoundment,” said State Conservationist, Ronald L. Hilliard. “Most West Virginia dams provide flood protection. The Elkwater Fork Dam’s primary purpose is water supply. It is also one of, if not the largest, construction contract ever administered by NRCS.”

The project planning began after a 1993 drought. A town requested NRCS assistance in identifying an alternate water supply source. In 1995, NRCS received authorization and funding to initiate a study to identify and address natural resource problems common to all the affected communities. In 2001, NRCS completed the Watershed Plan and Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). A design for the water supply dam was completed by Architect-Engineer (A&E) contract administered by West Virginia NRCS.



Construction begins in May 2006 on the 123 feet tall dam and 54 acre reservoir. NRCS is responsible for contract administration. The project is expected to be completed in 2008 or 2009.

Diagram of a typical cross section of the
Elkwater Fork Dam.

(Click to enlarge)

Project benefits include

- Providing a water supply for public water service customers in the Upper Tygarts Valley River Watershed.
- Eliminating water withdrawals from the Upper Tygarts Valley River and tributaries exceeding WV withdrawal limitations.
- Improving human health and safety by providing sufficient water to meet sanitary and fire protection needs.
- Incidental recreational uses including angler access.

Federal, state, and local partners worked together for funding. Federal sources provided \$23 million (75%) for the project through the NRCS PL 566 program. State and local partners provided \$8 million (25%) and acquired land needed for the project. The dam project is a priority for Senator Byrd who worked for congressional funding. The Huttonsville Public Service District is seeking funding for design and construction of a treatment plant and transmission lines to provide treated water to Southern Randolph County.

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Riparian Buffer Establishment in Hampshire County with the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP)

Submitted by Steve Ritz

Hampshire County livestock producers continue to find the program benefits of the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) attractive. The combined 90% cost share rates of this riparian buffer program have made this a popular program for several years.

To date 103 tracts are involved in CREP and a total of 1,503 acres of buffer have been established. Hampshire County leads West Virginia in CREP participation accounting for over 75% of the state's CREP enrollment. \$384,000 was issued to CREP participants in Hampshire County in 2005. This figure will more than double in 2006.



Most of this acreage has been established as forested riparian buffers however six tracts with over 250 acres have been set aside as grass filter strips along streams where crops were previously grown.

"I didn't have to cut ice (to provide livestock water) once last winter with this new watering trough." reports one Hampshire County livestock producer. "The cattle weren't hanging around the stream and making a mess since we built the fence."

Many program participants like the improved wildlife habitat benefit on their farms. Native species of trees and shrubs that provide both food and cover for wildlife are being selected and planted.



Stream channels as defined by CREP eligibility requirements may include upland streams on steep ground. These areas don't provide much forage production but offer much greater habitat diversity on participating farms.



While trees are coming back to many of these buffers naturally once the livestock are excluded, over 40,000 trees have been planted in Hampshire Co. under CREP.

One fence building option for CREP participants is to contract with the US Fish and Wildlife Service. They've provided fence building service to CREP participants at the 90% cost share rate, which provides the fence at no cost to the producer. Producers may opt to have other fencing contractors build the fence to NRCS standards or even to build the fence themselves. Total cost of any fence cannot exceed \$2.36 per foot however.



Dry weather and less available livestock water in recent years in Hampshire County has increased interest in the CREP due to the option of installing alternative livestock watering systems. Pumped water from wells has been the most popular choice of additional livestock water.

Since the first CREP contract was written in Hampshire County in 2002, the Romney field office has overseen the installation of 12 ponds, 17 wells, 32,208 feet of pipeline, 76 watering facilities, and 5 stream crossings. Many more livestock watering practices are planned for the next few years under CREP.

For more information, contact [Steve Ritz](#) at the [Romney Service Center](#).

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2005 Minesoil Study in Barbour and Preston Counties

Submitted by Steve Baker

The original surveys for Barbour (1968) and Preston (1959) Counties delineated strip mined lands, but simply designated these areas as 'Sm', with no corresponding interpretations. This was standard for the time as minesoils were thought to be too variable to accurately classify. Since then, the concept of mined areas has changed greatly, with WVU as a leading research facility for these soils.

The original surveys listed the total mined land to be 7,350 acres in Barbour and 1,974 acres in Preston County, with those figures expected to double by the time these counties make SSURGO certification and are posted to the Soil Data Mart in 2007. The MLRA 127 soil survey staff decided that a sampling project for minesoil characterization was well justified given the fairly intense post-mining use as pasture for area farmers, coupled with the high price of coal spurring further mining.

There are two dominant coal producing geologies in the survey area, the Monongahela, mainly in western Barbour, and the Conemaugh, which extends well into Preston County. See table below.

Geology	Dominant Rock Type	Associated Coal	Resultant Soil Series
Monongahela	Sandstones, Thin	Redstone, Pittsburgh	JaneLew
	Limestones, Shales		
Conemaugh	Sandstones, Shales	Bakerstown, Upper	Bethesda
		Freeport	

The sampling method was to dig four pits in the Monongahela and four in the Conemaugh, along with transect data to support these pits. The pits were dug to 150+ cm, sampled by horizon, and then shipped to the Soil Survey Lab in Lincoln for

analysis. This project will help us characterize the series as they occur in this survey area, and will provide interpretations that were unavailable.

I would also like to take a moment to thank Athena Van Lear (SS, Philippi) and Adam Boner (SS SCEPT) for their help in digging these rock laden pits. It was quite labor intensive and not always in the best of weather, and I am forever grateful. Also thanks are due to Tony Jenkins (MLRA Project Leader), Skip Bell (SDOS), and Steve Carpenter (SSS) for their help and encouragement on this project.

For further information, contact [Steve Baker](#) at the [Major Land Resource Area # 127 Central Soil Survey Project Office](#).

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Smooth Cordgrass Project

Submitted by Robert Pate

The Plant Materials Center in Alderson is participating in a project to produce plugs of Smooth Cordgrass (*Spartina alterniflora*), for use at the Jamaica Bay Saltmarsh Restoration, along the coastline of New York State. This restoration is under stewardship of the Gateway National Recreation Area. Information about this project may be found at: <http://www.nature.nps.gov/jbi/Restoration.htm>



The project consisted of putting together plastic trays, and filling them with a special sand and peat mixture. About 25% sand had to be added to the peat, so that the plugs would not float away during high tide.

The seeds of *Spartina alterniflora* had been gathered last fall. These seeds were sprouted, and added to the tops of the plastic trays.

Approximately 165,000 plugs will be produced. The employees at the Alderson Plant Materials Center worked hard to make this project successful, as did many other employees from the South Area. Greenhouses at the Agricultural Research Service facilities on Airport Road in Raleigh County were used.



The finished plugs, (shown above), were put on water tables, where the water wicked up into the plugs from the bottom of the trays.

Additional projects are pending, and greenhouse work may be in the future for many

South Area employees. Thank you to all NRCS employees who contributed time out of their already busy schedule.

For more information contact [Robert Pate](#) at the [Beckley-South Area Office](#).

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Award-Winning Partners Project Benefits Livestock, Stream

Submitted by Casey Shrader

Robert Schnably, District Conservationist at the Ranson Service Center, is part of an award winning partnership team. *The Fish and Wildlife News*, the quarterly newsletter of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, featured a Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program (WHIP) project and noted that NRCS in Jefferson County has completed more than 20 projects with the Service providing cost-share assistance for agricultural and wildlife-related benefits.

The article "piles on yet more accolades for the great work that Bob has done in the Eastern Panhandle", said Casey Shrader, WV State Biologist. "We continue to enjoy a good working relationship with USFWS for our many projects throughout the state through CREP, WHIP and EQIP . . . and people are taking notice."

Reprinted from Fall 2005 *Fish and Wildlife News*

Diana Weaver, USFWS External Affairs, Hadley, Massachusetts

The cows and calves in Warren and Reva Mickey's West Virginia pastures eat fresh, high-quality grass, and the creek running through the pastures runs clean and cool thanks to new fences, stream crossings and vegetation provided through the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program. The Jefferson County project near Charles Town won statewide awards in 2004 and 2005 and serves as a model for similar projects.

A stream may be the most logical, least expensive way to water livestock, but livestock can trample streambanks, causing erosion and increasing sediment, according to the

Service's John Schmidt, West Virginia coordinator for the program for the past 12 years. Cows were doing just that to the North Fork of the Bullskin, which cut through three of the Mickey's fields.



The Partners project provided new fencing on the Mickey's farm to protect the bank along stream front fields and to establish a lane for cows to move from another field to the stream.

With management-intensive rotational grazing, cows are grazing on more, but smaller pastures. They spend less time in each pasture and graze more efficiently, Schmidt said. Less grass is lost to trampling and fecal contamination.

In a half mile reach of the Bullskin, the Partners program built three rock-armored pathways across the stream for firm footing and easy crossing for cows and farm equipment. This method provides water for livestock but keeps cows away from the rest of the streambank and reduces erosion.

Finally, vegetation was planted along the bank to shade and cool the stream with the ultimate goal of reestablishing trout to the stream someday. To celebrate Earth Day 2003, Assistant Secretary Lynn Scarlett helped Boy Scout troops and some of the project partners plant silky dogwood and pine seedlings along the creek bank.

Mickey and other farmers in his soil conservation district competed for West Virginia Farm of the Year in 2004, with Mickey winning the statewide award for the Partners project. This year, Mickey won the governor's Department of Environmental Conservation award for environmental excellence. In addition to keeping cows and raising calves, the Mickeys grow corn and soybeans on land originally farmed in the 1700s.

Schmidt said the Mickeys considered a streambank project after an upstream neighbor developed a similar project. The Mickey's downstream neighbor has followed suit and excluded livestock as well. The Mickey project was a partnership between the landowner, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S.D.A.'s Natural Resources Conservation

Service, the Chesapeake Bay Foundation, Ducks Unlimited, and the California University of Pennsylvania Foundation.

NRCS in Jefferson County has completed more than 20 projects with the Service providing cost-share assistance for agricultural and wildlife-related benefits, Schmidt said. Their Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program provided 75 percent cost share on the Mickeys' project.

When NRCS uses the Service's National Conservation Training Center in nearby Shepherdstown for employee training, the Mickey project is among those on the field trip as an example of a public-private partnership and cooperative conservation.

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Productive Lands — Healthy Environment



The new [NRCS Strategic Plan, *Productive Lands — Healthy Environment*](#) is available on the NRCS website. This Strategic Plan sets the direction for NRCS and describes our conservation priorities and goals. A screen and print version is available.

To preserve America's natural resources and get conservation on the land, a vision is necessary for what needs to be done and a practical plan is needed to bring the vision into reality. Employee input was solicited through a survey. Partners, farmers, ranchers, agricultural organizations, and academics were consulted.

NRCS' Mission and Vision

As part of the strategic planning process, NRCS adopted a new mission statement: *helping people help the land*. This phrase succinctly and clearly tells what we're all about: working with landowners to preserve and enhance the natural resources we all depend on.

The new strategic plan outlines the agency's vision for the future: productive lands—healthy environment. It's a clear recognition of NRCS's focus on working agricultural lands and interest in preserving productivity while safeguarding and promoting environmental benefits for all Americans.

Overarching Strategies

In implementing our goals for the future, NRCS will be guided by three overarching strategies.

1. Cooperative conservation
2. Watershed approach

3. Market-based approach

Guiding Principles and Business Lines

NRCS goals will be accomplished with guiding principles. These principles are service, partnership, and technical excellence.

- Customers deserve the best service we can provide. That means treating them fairly, with respect and dignity; listening to their views and providing assistance that is tailored to their needs. We are committed to meeting the highest professional standards for customer service.
- Conservation can best be achieved through partnership—with landowners, other federal and state agencies, tribes, conservation districts, resource conservation and development councils and other organizations devoted to conservation.
- NRCS also values technical excellence and will foster that through training for employees and development of cutting-edge, science-based technology. We welcome diversity, encourage innovation and self-development, and reward creativity and achievement.

The NRCS work environment ensures civil rights by seeking to ensure that the NRCS workforce closely resembles the diversity of our nation's labor force—the right people, in the right jobs, delivering high-quality products and services.

As part of developing our strategic plan, five business lines were identified—groups of similar products and services we provide to support and advance natural resource conservation. These business lines include:

1. Conservation planning and technical consultation
2. Conservation implementation
3. Natural resources inventory and assessment
4. Natural resource technology transfer
5. Financial assistance

To reach the vision of productive lands and a healthy environment, six goals were identified—three foundation goals and three venture goals. Together, these goals

describe a landscape that Americans want—free of damage and degradation—natural resources that sustain a high standard of living for a dynamic society.

Foundation goals cover traditional NRCS concerns:

1. high quality, productive soils
2. clean and abundant water
3. and healthy plant and animal communities

The Venture Goals are:

1. air quality
2. an adequate energy supply
3. preserving working farms and ranch lands

Requests for hard copies of the Strategic Plan may be made at <http://landcare.sc.egov.usda.gov/> or by calling 1-888-LANDCARE.

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Agriculture and Conservation Organizations Visited the Capitol Valentine's Day

The annual Agriculture and Conservation Day was held at the Capitol on Tuesday, February 14, 2006, in the Capitol Rotunda. Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) other USDA agencies, the Conservation Agency (WVCA), and Conservation Districts discussed issues with State Legislature and citizens visiting the West Virginia capital.

Participants had informational displays and representatives on hand to answer questions.



Ron Hilliard, Herb Andrick, Dick Judy, Bill O'Donnell, Greg Kist, Greg Stone, and Carol Lagodich were available to answer questions about NRCS program.

Kurt Simon was there—his daughters spent the day as state senate pages. Peg Reese staffed the West Virginia Farmland Protection Assistance Program display.



Steve Carpenter, David Kingsbury, Jared Beard, Charles Delp, and Steve Baker staffed a display featuring the web soil survey.

Backyard Conservation booklets were very popular with the groups lobbying the legislatures. An afternoon reception featured West Virginia Grown products.

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Education

WV Grassland Evaluation Contest

The WV Grassland Evaluation Contest was held April 7, 2006. This year, 11 teams participated. Cabell Midland High School placed 1st, and Ravenswood High School placed second.

Members of the Cabell Midland High School first place team receive a \$500 scholarship. Second place Ravenswood High School team members receive \$250 scholarships. The first place team is eligible to participate in the Mid-America Contest at Springfield, Missouri.

A contest team may consist of a maximum of 4 or a minimum of 3 FFA or 4-H members who are currently enrolled at the high school level. The judging site was typical pasture used for livestock grazing. A scenario with landowner's goals for livestock and wildlife production was provided along with appropriate soil survey information, aerial photos, maps, scorecards and other relative information. The contestants first determined the condition of the field then made corrective decisions based on sound agricultural practices compatible with the landowner's goals. The Grassland Evaluation program consists of four sections:

- Grassland Condition
- Soil Interpretation
- Wildlife Habitat
- Plant Identification

Each of these factors were considered in evaluating the pasture to best utilize the resource and to help make useful management decisions.

The contest is sponsored by West Virginia Grassland Steering Committee—an organization made up of farmers, educators, scientists, conservationists, and government agencies with a common interest in forages. The committee is an advocate and proponent for improvement and continued wise use of grassland to improve water quality and maintain healthy and productive land and maximize profits. Forages make up two thirds or more of the feed utilized for livestock. Forages provide food and shelter for wildlife, greatly reduce soil erosion, and protect water quality. Increasing awareness of grassland management through education is one of the strategic issues identified by the steering committee. With this in mind, they initiated West Virginia's first Grassland Evaluation Contest. It was held in April, 2001 at Jackson's Mill during the annual Beef Expo. Its purpose is to improve the participants' knowledge of grassland.

For more information, contact [Gary Redden](#) at the [Beckley-South Area Office](#).

Envirothon



NRCS retiree, Kelly Sponaugle, coached the Shady Spring High School Biology Club to another first place finish at the 10th West Virginia Envirothon on April 27. The team will represent the Mountain State in the Canon Envirothon at Winnipeg, Canada July 23-29, 2006.

The five top placing teams were:

1. Shady Spring High School Biology Club, Raleigh County
2. Ripley High School Environmental Science I team, Jackson County
3. Ripley High School Environmental Science II team, Jackson County
4. Mineral County Future Farmers of America team
5. Lewis County Future Farmers of America team

The Doddridge County High School Gold team from Doddridge County was voted the most enthusiastic team award by members of the Envirothon teams.

The West Virginia Envirothon is a competition for students in grades 9 through 12 in which they face hands-on challenges testing their natural resource knowledge, skills and problem-solving abilities. The tests focused on five subject areas: forestry, soils, aquatics, wildlife, and a current environmental topic. This year's current topic was Water Stewardship in a Changing Climate. Tests were conducted outdoors, allowing the students a chance to work and learn in a real-world setting, guided by environmental professionals.

The top five teams were required to give an oral presentation describing its environmental recommendations for a hypothetical scenario in which a developer who plans to create a sustainable year-round resort complex on Guyandotte Mountain. The teams were instructed to focus on meeting the water needs of the resort with as little harm as possible to the watersheds.

The West Virginia Envirothon Committee is a cooperative effort of the county Farm Bureaus, USDA Forest Service, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, West Virginia Association of Conservation Districts, West Virginia Conservation Agency, West Virginia Department of Education, West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection, West Virginia Department of Agriculture, West Virginia Division of Forestry, West Virginia Division of Natural Resources, West Virginia Forestry Association and West Virginia University Extension Service.

More photos may be seen at: <http://gallery.wvca.us/envirothon>



Barbara McWhorter grades forestry tests.



Jared Beard and Nicole Viars discuss team rotation.



Nicole Viars, Carlos Cole, and Jared Beard staffed the soils station.



Greg Kist escorted teams.



Randy Dye (WV State Forester) and Ron Hilliard were oral presentation judges.

West Virginia State Conservation Camp

Celebrating its 65 year tradition of conservation education and fun, the West Virginia State Conservation Camp is now accepting applications for youth ages 14-18 to attend the event at Camp Caesar in Webster County, June 12-17. Applications must be received by June 1.

Applications may be obtained by contacting local sponsoring conservation and civic organization, West Virginia Extension offices or the Conservation Camp Secretary/Treasurer Alan Miller at (304) 358-3298. The information brochure is available at <http://www.wvforestry.com/> . For more information go to http://www.wvca.us/news/news_story.cfm?id=543

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Useful Links

E-mail Access Away from the Office

Compiled from an e-mail by Steven Dorsey

Employees are now able to access their email via web browser not only internally but also from any public Internet outside of USDA network.

Open Internet Explorer



1. Go to <https://webmail-east.one.usda.gov/exchange/>
2. Log in

User name = <domain name>/<first.LastName> example: ageast/john.doe

Password = same password you logon to your workstation daily

USDA Dashboard

Compiled from an e-mail by Karen Fitchett

USDA Dashboard is a website that allows NRCS employees to estimate their own retirement annuities. The address is <https://asp.gdcii.com/dashboard/usdaoa>.

This is the retirement calculator that was on the my.nrcs website at one time. It is also the one HR uses to estimate your retirement. Information that is in NFC is loaded into Dashboard periodically to update changes (health, life and salaries). Dashboard requires a password.

If you have any questions or need a password, contact Karen Fitchett, Human Resources Specialist, at 304-284-7552 or Karen.Fitchett@wv.usda.gov.

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Earth Team Update

Submitted by Peg Reese, State Volunteer Coordinator

Featured Volunteer: Dr. Bill Waltman

Dr. Bill Waltman, a soil scientist and professor, became an Earth Team Volunteer in early August 2005. Since then, he has logged more than 450 hours helping with soil survey, particularly in the northern part of MLRA 127.



Bill Waltman, Earth Team Volunteer, reviews bulk density data from a Cookport pedon in Fayette County, WV (Photo Steve Carpenter)

"Dr. Waltman's insight is valuable as we work to normalize legends in the southern part of MLRA-127," reports State Soil Scientist/MO-13 Staff Leader Steve Carpenter. "He is also assisting the MO-13 office with a soil climate atlas of WV. In April, Bill provided a lecture for our staff meeting at field week entitled: 'Concepts of Soil Landscapes on the Unglaciated Allegheny Plateau.' The lecture was very well received."

"Bill is a valuable member of the soils team," says Bill's NRCS supervisor, Tim Prescott (GIS Specialist).

Earth Team GM Revised

The Earth Team portion of the General Manual was revised in March. Changes include:

- Earth Team sign-up forms
- Award criteria and forms
- Volunteers may no longer be given gift certificates and the

- Earth Team logo is no longer used

You can find the updated policy at: http://policy.nrcs.usda.gov/scripts/lpsiis.dll/GM/GM_360_428_A.htm

Contact Information Change:

State Volunteer Coordinator contact information has changed to:

Peg Reese

Resource Conservationist

201 Scott Avenue

Morgantown, WV 26508

Phone: (304) 291-4377 Ext. 131

E-mail: peg.reese@wv.usda.gov

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Home Protection

Compiled from an e-mail from Jim Piper

Jim Piper's home was recently burglarized. He appreciated the advanced warning call he and Gail received while traveling home from Morgantown on Valentines night. A sheriff's deputy called their cell phone to tell them that they had been burglarized. They would have been shocked at what they saw. A deputy stayed at their house until they arrived, since doors had been broken open and could not be locked.

It was a mess! Besides what they took, they tore a hole in the new carpet, broke some collectible items, dumped contents of drawers on the floor, and swept things off shelves. They broke the lock on the steel door into Jim's workshop/garage and stole his Jeep after loading it full of tools. After stashing the loot somewhere, they tried to push the Jeep over a dam. They were not successful—some neighbors came down the road and frightened them off before they accomplished the deed.

Jim and Gail met many new friends at the sheriff's office, insurance companies, an automotive repair shop, and some curious neighbors they were not well acquainted with yet.

Jim believed in learning lessons from other people's experiences and hopes this might be helpful to others. Here are some lessons and tips:

1. Buy and use timers at all times on a few lights and maybe a TV/radio, to assure that the house is never dark in the early evening hours - even if you are simply in town for several hours, or gone only for one night. There are some very good new timers out. Check at a good hardware store.
2. Put the best quality deadbolts on that you can find - there are 3 grades of locks, and "Level One Security" is the best. (Not all hardware stores carry the best locks - you might have to look around.) Unfortunately, this does not prevent

thieves from getting in if they really want in. But it may slow them down or be a deterrent. It may also just mean that you will have broken windows to clean up and repair.

3. Lock all your vehicles, even if they are in a locked garage. Lock the garage overhead door if possible, to prevent them from being easily opened from the inside.
4. Keep copies of receipts of expensive items, the serial numbers, and take lots of pictures of your household (good in case of fire or other natural disasters) and the small expensive items that thieves might like to take. Keep copies of this info in a safe place away from the house.
5. Stop mail and paper. Mail may be stopped on-line. Go to <https://dunsapp.usps.gov/HoldMail.jsp>.
6. If you have any places in your driveway where a person can park out of view of neighbors and the road, try to eliminate those if possible.
7. Add motion detector security lights or photo cells. Some motion detectors will send a wireless signal to an alarm in the house. A motion sensor "driveway alert" is also good if people can pull into your driveway without you knowing it. You can even find some driveway sensors that will transmit the alarm signal up to 2 or-3000 feet or more to a neighbors house, if you are going to be gone.
8. The insurance man's best suggestion—buy a big dog.
9. Considering other security measures such as a home monitoring system and/or both visible and hidden cameras. Something like this makes a person paranoid!

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Meet . . .



TJ Burr, USAF Reserve Officer

Some of you may notice that TJ disappears from his civil engineering duties at the state office from time to time. This is because he has a part-time job with the US Air Force Reserves. Unlike a traditional reservist, Lieutenant Colonel Burr serves his reserve time by augmenting active duty forces when and where they need him. This unique status enables him to serve anytime, anywhere, with less than 24-hours notice when necessary. He keeps a rapid response bag packed with gear, and can be on a plane within a few hours.

Even though he only has 20-years of military service officially credited to him, he has continually served in a military capacity since he was 17 years old. He observed his 18th birthday in San Diego, California at Marine Corps Basic Training. After a short tour in the Marines, the Air Force awarded him with a 4-year ROTC scholarship at the University of Wyoming so he could pursue an education in civil engineering. When he asked the Marines about their engineering program, they told him they had two types of engineers: 1) Combat Engineers, and 2) Combat Engineers.

Following graduation from college, TJ entered active duty with the Air Force as a second lieutenant in Atlanta, Georgia. Enroute to Atlanta from his home near Denver, Colorado, he spent 2-weeks in Wichita Falls, Texas attending some special training. While on active duty and with the reserves, TJ has traveled around the country and abroad. He has been to, Greenland, Portugal, and 46 of the states in the US. His favorite trip while on reserve duty was a week in Anchorage, Alaska.

Recently, TJ has assisted with a \$45 million project to restore the medical center at Keesler AFB, Mississippi to pre-hurricane conditions. The base is located in Biloxi, Mississippi, less than a half-mile from the Gulf Coast. He visited the area on February 14, 2006, and had this to say, "The coastline looked like a war zone." The basement of the medical center is at 18 feet above sea level, but the storm surge raised the water level to 22-feet causing extensive flood damage to the lower level facilities. Unfortunately, the emergency power generators were all on the basement level. Without power or air conditioning, conditions inside the building rapidly deteriorated. Just months before Hurricane Katrina struck, the Air Force replaced all of the windows with hurricane-resistant windows, which prevented major damage to the upper levels of the facility.



The photographs were taken at a park dedicated to the USS Alabama Battleship in Mobile, Alabama. During wartime operations the battleship weighed 45,000 pounds and carried a crew of 2,500. The ship was listing to port side because Hurricane Katrina pushed sand up under it. The force of the hurricane's storm surge was also strong enough to push tanks off their foundations that are also on display at the park.

TJ will likely find himself back in Mississippi in the coming months as the extensive constructions restoration continues. For now, he is happy to be home in West Virginia.

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Mentors Needed

Submitted by Barbara Broxterman, Federal Women's Program Manager

With direction from the State Conservationist, Ron Hilliard, the West Virginia NRCS Civil Rights Action Committee (CRAC) was instrumental in the planning, policy development and re-establishment of the West Virginia Mentoring Program for all WV employees.

This investment in NRCS employee's welfare, as well as the establishment of a process of introduction and networking among fellow employees and their peers, is proactive.

The CRAC committee developed fact sheets and information packets to introduce the program to NRCS employees and worked closely with the human resources department, which will be responsible for the administration of the program.

The program is designed to provide assistance and guidance to new employees, student trainees and current employees as they explore options and plan strategies towards their career growth at NRCS and is voluntary.

All current employees may request a mentor at any time and become a protégé by filling out an application and submitting it to the Human Resources Manager. After the program is up and running, new employees will automatically be assigned a Mentor for one year and others will be encouraged to participate. Mentors may be selected from a pool of volunteers or at the request of the protégé; a specific mentor may be selected if possible. All mentors must have provided the Human Resource Manager with an application for consideration and completed mentoring training. The Human Resources Manager is currently overseeing the program and accepting applicant's profiles for Mentoring and Protégé positions.

If you believe you can contribute, have the time and will provide positive advice or feedback to a new or current employee, please fill out the form, located at <http://www.wv.nrcs.usda.gov/about/civilRights/mentor/mentor.html>

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Personnel Updates

As of May 3, 2006

Name	Action	Location	Change
Casseday, Julie	Reassignment 04/30/2006	Morgantown FO	to: Philippi FO
Casseday, Julie	Name Change	-	Julie Stutler
Covell, Sue	Resignation 02/17/2006	Little Kanawha RC&D	-
Cunningham, Debby	Promotion 03/19/2006	Soil Survey Project Office - Huntington	GS-470-7
Dorsey, Debbie	New Hire 02/05/2006	Beckley Area Office	Administrative Office Assistant
Fitchett, Karen	Promotion 02/05/2006	State Office	GS-201-11
Fitzsimmons, Katie	Promotion 03/05/2006	White Hall FO	GS-457-7
Fitzsimmons, Katie	Reassignment 04/30/2006	White Hall FO	to: Morgantown FO
Flanagan, Rebecca	Reassignment 02/19/2006	McMechen FO	to: Weston FO
Householder, Misty	Resignation 04/28/2006	Cross Lanes FO	-

Reese, Peg	Reassignment 04/02/2006	State Office	to: East Area/ Morgantown FO
Shelton, Sarah	Resignation 02/17/2006	Petersburg Field Office	-
Teets, Sigrid	Reassignment 04/30/2006	Philippi FO	to: White Hall FO
Williams, Lonnie	Promotion 03/19/2006	State Office	GS-203-06
Wolfe, JR	Reassignment 04/02/2006	Morgantown FO	to: State Office

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West Virginia NRCS Employees Assisting Across the Nation (FY2006)

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Name	Home Unit	Location	Agency	Assignment	Date
Vickie Scott	Philippi-East Area Office	LA	NRCS	EWP	February 13 30 days
Mike Mullennex	Philippi Service Center	LA	NRCS	EWP	February 13 30 days
Larry Casseday	Elkins Service Center	LA	NRCS	EWP	February 13 30 days
John Weller	Philippi-East Area Office	LA	NRCS	EWP	February 13 30 days
Matt Pyle	Petersburg Service Center	LA	NRCS	EWP	February 13 30 days
Patti Mitchell	Cross Lanes Service Center	LA	NRCS	EWP	February 13 30 days
David Sweeney	Parkersburg - West Area Office	LA	NRCS	EWP	February 13 30 days

Dave Bauerbach,	Parkersburg - West Area Office	MS	NRCS	EWP	February 20 30 days
Rocky Wickline	Beckley - South Area Office	MS	NRCS	EWP	February 20 30 days
Carol Lagodich	WV State Office	Carlsbad, NM	BLM	Technical Specialist, Fire Prevention	February 22 16 days
Donny Dodd, Jr.	Beckley - South Area Office	UT	NRCS	EWP	March 6 30-60 days
Laura Davis	Beckley - South Area Office	UT	NRCS	EWP	March 6 30-60 days
Danny Miles	Beckley - South Area Office	UT	NRCS	EWP	March 6 30-60 days
Jim Allen	Philippi - East Area Office	UT	NRCS	EWP	March 6 30-60 days
Cecil Springer	Philippi - East Area Office	UT	NRCS	EWP	March 6 30-60 days
Ray Hamilton	Philippi - East Area Office	UT	NRCS	EWP	March 6 30-60 days

Tom Tamasco	Morgantown State Office	UT	NRCS	EWP	March 12 30-60 days
Ernest Morgan	Philippi - East Area Office	UT	NRCS	EWP	March 12 30-60 days
Clay Handley	Beckley - South Area Office	UT	NRCS	EWP	March 12 30-60 days
Dan Lynch	Moorefield Service Center	UT	NRCS	EWP	March 19 30-60 days
Mike Allen	Petersburg Service Center	UT	NRCS	EWP	March 19 30-60 days
Brandon Duckworth	Hamlin Service Center	UT	NRCS	EWP	March 19 30-60 days
Ray Cragar	Philippi - East Area Office	UT	NRCS	EWP	March 20 30-60 days
Carrie Crislip	Parkersburg Service Center	OH	NRCS	CSP	March 13 30 days
Jason Crislip	Point Pleasant Service Center	OH	NRCS	CSP	March 13 30 days

Misty Householder	Cross Lanes Service Center	OH	NRCS	CSP	March 13 30 days
Jared Nestor	Glenville Service Center	OH	NRCS	CSP	March 13 30 days
Ben Collier	Gassaway Service Center	OH	NRCS	CSP	March 13 30 days
Katie McBride	Lewisburg Service Center	OH	NRCS	CSP	March 13 30 days
Mike Marks	Huntington Service Center	OH	NRCS	DC	March 20 30 days
Debra Delaney	Wes-Mon-Ty RC&D Office	UT	NRCS	EWP	March 27 30-60 days days
Crystle Buchanan	Parkersburg - West Area Office	UT	NRCS	EWP	March 27 30-60 days days
Patti Mitchell	Cross Lanes Service Center	UT	NRCS	EWP	February 2 30-60 days

Kurt Simon	Little Kanawha RC&D	Washington DC	NRCS	RC&D	February 2 90 days (last 60 in DC)
Up Coming					
Peg Reese	Philippi-East Area Office	Shepherdstown, WV	NRCS	NEDS Boot Camp	June 12 -30 July 17 -Aug 4
Jared Beard	Moorefield Service Center	Maine	NRCS	Soil Survey	May 30 -Sept 30 16 Weeks

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Name	Home Unit	Location	Agency	Assignment	Date
Carol Lagodich	WV State Office	Barksdale Air Force Base Bossier City , LA	FEMA	Information Officer Mobilization Center (MOB), Hurricane Katrina and Rita Support	16 days October
Laura Davis	Beckley Service Center	LA	USACE	Debris Mission/Leaners and Hangers	60 days November-December

Rebecca Flanagan	McMechen Service Center	New Orleans, LA	USACE	Debris Mission, Debris Removal Quality Assurance Specialist (QA)	30 days November- December
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